

Frederick Access to Healthcare Coalition – Affordability Committee
November 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Present: Sarah Penna, Ken Eidel, Maria Shuck, Pat Rosensteel, Pat Hanberry

Sent Regrets: Carol Antoniewicz, Guy Djoken, Sue Hecht, Nicole Hoff, Susan Lindstrom, Helen Monk, Earl Robbins, Irka Fallas

Minutes: Sarah reviewed the minutes of the September 27th meeting, which were accepted unanimously.

Interim Coalition Coordinating Committee Meeting: Pat H. reviewed the content of the October 26 ICC meeting, minutes of which had been distributed to everyone via e-mail.

Healthcare Joint Legislative Task Force: Pat H. reported that this meeting, held in Hagerstown on October 11 was very poorly attended. Carol Antoniewicz testified for Medicaid Matters and Pat testified on behalf of the necessity of everyone having access to the means to pay for healthcare, especially those with mental illness. Irka Fallas submitted testimony.

Election Results: Sarah reviewed the winners of the Frederick County state and county races; there was brief discussion as to what the results might mean for health care in the state.

Affordability Committee Goals: The Committee spent a long time discussing the goals, objectives and tasks of the Committee. All agreed that our primary thrust is going to be legislative action, since health care financing is influenced almost exclusively at the state level. The result of this discussion is reflected on the attached chart.

In furtherance of Objective 1, Sarah will ask Sue Hecht, as a member of the Coalition, if she will provide training in the legislative process at our December meeting. Other suggestions were Ric Weldon and someone from the Mental Health Association of Maryland.

Regarding Objective 2a, Sarah will ask Nicole Hoff of this Committee if she, or another student at Hood, would be interested in researching legislators' voting records on health care bills during the past two sessions. Maria will also ask Jeanie Cronin from Hood if she knows a student who could help with this.

For Objective 1b, 2b, and 3a Sarah will ask the Health Care for All! Coalition to make a presentation at our January meeting regarding advocacy/community organizing, upcoming legislation, and Health Care for All's plan.

Members were encouraged to log onto the General Assembly's website, as listed on the agenda.

Needs Assessment Questions: The group ran out of time to discuss these questions. Pat agreed to ask the ICC what the deadline is for these questions.

Maryland Health Insurance Program: In the absence of Rick Leibley, Sarah explained the MHIP program as a great program for people who would otherwise be uninsurable and who can present a denial letter from another insurance carrier. It may also be an option for people currently on/being offered COBRA. There is a premium cost to the consumer.

Other Information: Maria shared that there is going to be a Minority Outreach Training Assistance (MOTA) meeting to discuss health disparities of minority populations on Wednesday, November 29 from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, followed by a stakeholders' meeting from 1:00 to 3:00. Barbara Brookmyer will be one of the presenters. Committee members expressed their hope that these efforts will be coordinated with those of the Coalition at some point.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hanberry, Substitute Secretary